Board of Police Commissioners
Tuesday March 7, 2017
Meeting Minutes
7:00 PM Town Hall Commission Room

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Bill Brady Chairman, Beth Gralnick Vice Chairman, Woody Bliss on Speaker Phone, Dawn Egan, Peter Ottomano, Susan Moch arrived 7:30 PM, Jess DiPasquale and Sergeant Brodacki

Others Present: Nina Daniel 1st Selectman, John Conte Town Engineer, Christine Lomuscio Town Resident and Michael Scavone Town Resident

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Consideration / Approval January 31, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Brady made a motion to approve the January 31, 2017 Meeting Minutes, Commissioner Gralnick moved, Commissioner Egan 2nd, Commissioner Moch was not present, motion passed.

Consideration / Approval February 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Brady made a motion to approve the February 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Gralnick moved, Commissioner Ottomano 2nd, Commissioner Moch was not present, motion passed.

Consideration / Approval February 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Brady made a motion to approve the February 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Egan moved, Commissioner Gralnick 2nd, Commissioner Bliss abstained, Commissioner Moch not present, motion passed.

3. John Conte & Sergeant Brodacki – Rumble Strips – Sergeant Brodacki stated that the state has tripled in the amount of applications they have received regarding rumble strips. Many towns are saying how effective they are. We do not know if we will be selected. In any case it was worth the application process. Commissioner Egan said she does have some feedback from Joe Lametta. Joe stated he is not in favor of rumble strips from a transportation position. He said they are hard to maintain and hard to plow around. There is build up that gets in-between the strips itself. He said it will be a cumbersome process for him to maintain the roads. Sergeant Brodacki said I am getting varied opinions on it. The Easton neighbors do not have any impact on their budget and I believe
it is a personal preference. Sergeant Brodacki stated the US Department of Transportation is showing a 50 percent improved rate on accidents and distracted driving. This includes rural, suburban and urban roadways. We know that the program is valid we just have to wait and take these other factors into consideration regarding roadway maintenance if there is one and how that affects our town. John Conte said he has looked at other roadways in the state and they do not seem to have a problem. Route 302 between Newtown and Bethel they just put rumble strips in. John Conte said he will call other towns who have rumble strips to see if they are having any problems. Commissioner Ottomano suggested to John to give the information to Joe Lametta and let him also speak to the contacts. Christine Lomuscio stated she does not want to interfere with the Commission she just had some concerns regarding the rumble strips. Commissioner Ottomano explained to her the reasons why they are applying for the State grant.

Progress on No Thru Trucks on Kellogg Hill Road – Sergeant Brodacki said he spoke to the traffic authority of the state and there has been a no thru truck sign in Easton since the late 1970’s. We have had about five accidents in four years of either tractor trailers or trucks coming from Old Redding making that left hand turn. The state said Weston has a few options. Call the traffic safety commission in your neighboring town and ask them if they would like to rescind the no thru truck sign which inevitably will be no. We report that back to the traffic commission. We can advise truck routes to avoid that intersection. We can put a no thru truck sign meaning these trucks will no longer be allowed on that intersection they will have to use route 136.

Commissioner DiPasquale made a motion to petition the state to lift the no thru truck zone on 136, Commissioner Egan 2nd, motion passed.

John Conte – 3 way stop River Road and Lyons Plains Road – The Commissioners are not in favor of stop signs on Lyons Plains Road. Commissioner Ottomano stated the sight lines on either side of River Road North and South are fine. Commissioner Ottomano asked is there is any way we can square off the angle to make it a 90 degree angle? John Conte will look into it.

4. Mark Harper Animal Control Officer was unable to attend. John Conte stood in for Mark for posting part of Davis Hill Road as a no parking zone to protect against parking along the road when the dog park lot is full. John Conte presented the plans for the dog park which has not been approved as yet but when and if it is built the Commissioners will make sure no parking signs are discussed at that time.

Commissioner Bliss made a motion when the dog park is constructed the Police Commission will take whatever steps necessary that there is no parking on Davis Hill Road, Commissioner Egan 2nd, motion passed.

5. Police Department Renovation / Updates / Status – Nina Daniel 1st Selectman said the renovation without the expansion is 2.4 million dollars and $500,000.00 with the new equipment for dispatch which comes to 3 million. Nina Daniel is asking the Police Commission to support her in putting aside 3 million dollars because of the current climate in the State. Commissioner Brady stated we ought to save the money to do the job properly. The Commissioners thanked Nina and think that is a good idea to reserve those funds for the Public Safety renovation and expansion. The Commissioners are waiting to have a cost estimate completed by Brian Humes.
6. Chief’s Report – Sergeant Brodacki stated that the Chief has retired and he is currently sitting in as Sergeant in charge.

a) Current Monthly Reports / OT / Budget / Updates - Sgt. Brodacki stated he is starting a binder with significant events for how many hours on certain cases that it is incurring overtime.

b) Grant Updates / Donations / Vote – No grant updates at this time.

c) $5,299.00 Asset Forfeiture Plans – Sergeant Brodacki asked Rick Darling what the process was. He said just mention it at the Selectman’s meeting so that they are aware of it and let the Commission Board know. There are a couple of stipulations on it. Fifteen percent has to go toward a Drug Education Program which is $794.80. The other 85% has to go toward drug enforcement which is $4,504.15. At the February 7, 2017 it was recommended that Detective Powers will be able to utilize that money with prior Commission approval of proposal. The remaining money Rick Darling said he will put it in the Police Department account.

d) Sergeant Brodacki work schedule – Spoke about the schedule. Commissioner Ottomano said they are contemplating a change to Monday through Friday day shift. How does that affect the other Sergeants? Sergeant Brodacki stated that it doesn’t affect the Sergeants it affects the Supervision for patrol. The Commissioners said they would like to have Sergeant Brodacki work Monday through Friday on the day shift. They will continue this conversation in Executive Session.

e) Additional Business for Commission Consideration – None at this time.

7. Sub Committee Reports

a) Other Updates – Commissioner DiPasquale spoke with Patty Gay and the Weston Forum and she is going to put an article in for Citizen of the Year the date will be April 15, 2017. The event will be held in June. We have a couple of submissions so far.

Commissioner Brady had the Commissioners look over the local traffic authority. They had a brief discussion regarding the scheduling software which they will put on the Agenda at some point.

10. Additional Business for Commission Consideration – None at this time.

Commissioner Brady made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:40 PM, Commissioner Moch moved, Commissioner Gralnick 2nd, motion passed.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 10:40 PM. Commissioner Moch moved that “The Police Commission name Sergeant Matt Brodacki Interim Chief pending agreement on a contract by both parties.” Commissioners Brady and Gralnick will put the agreement together with Peter Ottomano and Susan Moch’s assistance. After concurrence from the Commission sub-committee the agreement will be sent to Cohen and Wolf for further revisions. Commissioner DiPasquale seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Gunshor
Police Commission Recording Secretary
Approved April 4, 2017